

Hello. My name is Billy Martin, and I am the past chairman of the Botetourt County Board of Supervisors. I am pleased to be able to provide a Botetourt County news update to the residents and businesses of Botetourt County.

First, a COVID-19 update. Botetourt County Libraries have partnered with the Virginia Department of Health to distribute free at-home COVID19 tests. These tests will be available at all of our library branches. You can pick them up curbside or call any branch for more information. Another note, all of our library and facility meeting spaces will reopen to the public on December 1st. For more information, contact your local library branch or Botetourt County Administration. And Eagle Rock Library patrons – we want to let you know that the Eagle Rock library branch will reopen on Saturdays starting December 4th! We are very excited about this!

Our libraries also have some other fun programs for the family. If you are interested in genealogy, then sign up for their FREE Zoom program called Intro to Ancestry that will be held on December 1st at 11am.

In other news, Botetourt County Fire & EMS want to remind you that as you celebrate Thanksgiving, remember to keep an eye on what you heat! Thanksgiving is the biggest day of the year for cooking fires, so make sure you are staying safe in the kitchen or use care if you use a turkey fryer. For more safety information, follow Botetourt Fire and EMS on social media or give them a call. It's also a good time to check your smoke alarm batteries and make sure you have a working fire extinguisher.

I also want to remind you that Botetourt County is hiring for several positions including our parks and recreation division – we are looking for site supervisors. Make sure to check out our listing of job opportunities at Botetourtva.gov and become a part of our Botetourt family.

Now on to holiday hours – just a reminder that Botetourt County Governmental Offices, including Libraries will be closed on Wednesday, November 24th after noon and will also be closed on Thursday, November 25th and Friday, November 26th in observance of Thanksgiving. And we

want to remind you to shop small on “Small Business Saturday” on Saturday, November 27th! Make sure to get out there and support our small businesses and get some of your early holiday shopping done! We are very proud of our businesses here in Botetourt County!

In closing, you might have noticed that during the month of November, we have been celebrating being BOCO Grateful. We have been highlighting our staff as well as our community partners. We hope that you have enjoyed getting to know some of our staff and that you are taking time during this holiday season to count your blessings and let people know what you are grateful for. It only takes a minute to share gratitude and we hope that you all have a very blessed, happy and safe Thanksgiving. And may God continue to bless Botetourt County!